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DOCUMENT ID: 37591474  
INQNO: DOC26D 00228513  
DOCNO: TEL 009113 93  
PRODUCER: TEL AVIV  
SOURCE: STATE  
DOCTYPE: IN  
DOR: 19930611  
TOR: 102904  
DOCPREC: O  
ORIGDATE: 199306111417  
MHFNO: 93 2818646  
DOCCLASS: C

HEADER  
OO RUEAIB  
ZNY CCCCC ZOC STATE ZZH  
TOU1026  
OO RUEHC  
DE RUFHTV #9113/01 1621417  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
O 111417Z JUN 93  
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
TO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0617  
RUEKJCS/DIA WASHDC  
INFO RUFHJU/AMCONSUL JERUSALEM 7263  
BT

CONTROLS  
C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 009113

SECDEF FOR OSD-ISA-NESA

DIA FOR DO

E.O. 12356:DECL: OADR

TEXT  
TAGS: PREL, US, IS, XF  
COMBINE: COMPLETE

SUBJECT: HITLER QUOTE IN AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL  
YEARBOOK RECEIVES FRONT PAGE MEDIA COVERAGE

1. C - ENTIRE TEXT.
2. THIS CABLE CONTAINS SUGGESTED PRESS GUIDANCE FOR STATE AND DOD USE. SEE PARA 8.
3. "YEDIOT AHARANOT" JUNE 11 GAVE FRONT PAGE COVERAGE TO AN INCIDENT AT THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL (AIS), WHICH MOST EMBASSY STUDENTS ATTEND (SEE PARA 9 FOR FULL TEXT). THE INCIDENT CONCERNS THE AIS YEARBOOK, SOME COPIES OF WHICH WERE DISTRIBUTED JUNE 10. IN THE YEARBOOK EACH SENIOR CHOSE QUOTATIONS TO BE PLACED NEXT TO HIS PICTURE (273 QUOTATIONS WERE CITED). ONE

STATE DEPT. DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

☒ Retain class'n  
☒ Declassify  
Change/classify to \_\_\_\_\_  
with concurrence of \_\_\_\_\_  
after \_\_\_\_\_  
EO 12958, 25X  
IPS/CR/IR by JA Date 8/30/01

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STUDENT, A DAO DEPENDENT (BUT NOT, AS REPORTED, THE SON OF THE DATT) CHOSE SEVERAL QUOTATIONS, INCLUDING THE FOLLOWING: "POWER DOES NOT COME FROM DEFENSE, BUT FROM ATTACK"--ADOLF HITLER.

4. THE APPEARANCE OF THE QUOTATION, ESPECIALLY THE NAME **ADOLF HITLER**, OUTRAGED JEWISH STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS. MATTERS WERE MADE WORSE WHEN SOMEONE PAINTED SWASTIKAS ON STUDENT LOCKERS AFTER CLASSES JUNE 10.

5. A NUMBER OF JEWISH STUDENTS WENT TO THE HOME OF THE DAO DEPENDENT TO CONFRONT HIM. AFTER A FULL DISCUSSION, WITH THE DAO EMPLOYEE PRESENT, THE JEWISH STUDENTS DEPARTED WITHOUT INCIDENT, APPARENTLY CONVINCED THE DAO DEPENDANT WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE SWASTIKAS (WHICH WERE PAINTED OVER BEFORE SCHOOL BEGAN JUNE 11). THE BACKGROUND TO THIS EPISODE WERE HOLOCAUST DAY ACTIVITIES IN APRIL. SOME NON-JEWISH STUDENTS BELIEVED THAT THE SCHOOL DEVOTED UNDUE ATTENTION TO THE HOLOCAUST. SOME JEWISH STUDENTS THOUGHT THAT SOME OF THEIR PEERS WERE INDIFFERENT OR INSENSITIVE IN THEIR APPROACH TO HOLOCAUST DAY.

6. THE DCM MADE A POINT TO CALL ON SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENT RICK DETWILER JUNE 11 TO SEE WHAT WAS BEING DONE TO DEFUSE TENSIONS AND TO INFORM HIM ABOUT THE EMBASSY'S POSITION AND OWN PRESS STATEMENT. DETWILER SAID THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING WITH THE STUDENT COUNCIL AND THE SCHOOL BOARD. THE SCHOOL WOULD ISSUE A STATEMENT (SEE PARA 10 BELOW) TO PUT THE ISSUE IN PERSPECTIVE. THE SCHOOL HAS STOPPED DISTRIBUTING THE YEARBOOK AND IS CONSIDERING OPTIONS FOR CORRECTING COPIES ALREADY DISTRIBUTED.

7. WE HAVE RECEIVED PRESS INQUIRIES ON THE STORY. THE PRESS GUIDANCE WE HAVE USED IS AS FOLLOWS: "THIS IS AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT AND THE SCHOOL IS ADDRESSING IT."

8. WE SUGGEST DOD AND STATE USE THE FOLLOWING GUIDANCE: "WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY THE EMBASSY OF THE DETAILS CONCERNING THE INCIDENT. THIS IS AN UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT, AND THE SCHOOL IS ADDRESSING IT. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE STUDENT COUNCIL WILL CONDUCT A HIGH SCHOOL ASSEMBLY IN A COUPLE OF DAYS TO DEAL WITH WAYS TO ADDRESS THIS TROUBLING INCIDENT. IN ADDITION, THE SCHOOL BOARD, ADMINISTRATION, AND STUDENT COUNCIL HAVE ISSUED THE FOLLOWING JOINT STATEMENT: 'WE DEEPLY AND SINCERELY REGRET THE APPEARANCE OF THE QUOTE IN OUR YEARBOOK; WE ARE ACTING RESPONSIBLY TO DETERMINE WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE BOOKS ALREADY PUBLISHED; AND WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO HELP STUDENTS LEARN FROM THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT.' "

9. BEGIN TEXT OF "YEDIOT AHARANOT" STORY ENTITLED:

"U.S. ATTACHE'S SON QUOTES HITLER

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AN UPROAR HAS BROKEN OUT AMONG THE FAMILIES OF THE AMERICAN HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES IN KFAR SHMARYAHU AFTER IT HAS BECOME KNOWN THAT THE SCHOOL'S YEARBOOK CONTAINS A QUOTE FROM **ADOLF HITLER**. HITLER'S NAME APPEARS UNDER THE QUOTE.

THE SCHOOL'S JEWISH STUDENTS AND THEIR PARENTS ARE DEMANDING THAT THE SCHOOL AUTHORITIES DESTROY ALL THE COPIES OF THE YEARBOOK AND ISSUE A NEW ONE WITHOUT THE QUOTE FROM HITLER. THE QUOTE SAYS, "POWER DOES NOT COME FROM DEFENSE, BUT FROM ATTACK."

THE QUOTE WAS INTRODUCED INTO THE BOOK BY THE SON OF A SENIOR MILITARY ATTACHE IN THE U.S. EMBASSY IN ISRAEL. THE MILITARY ATTACHE'S SON CHOSE THIS QUOTE TO APPEAR IN THE YEARBOOK AS THE SLOGAN WITH WHICH HE IDENTIFIES. 'IT'S A SCANDAL THAT NEITHER THE SCHOOL DIRECTOR NOR ANY OF HIS AIDES HAVE TAKEN THE TROUBLE TO SCRUTINIZE THE BOOK BEFORE SENDING IT TO BE PRINTED,' ANGRY PARENTS SAID YESTERDAY.

THE AMERICAN SCHOOL IN KFAR SHMARYAHU IS ATTENDED BY ISRAELI STUDENTS, AS WELL AS BY THE CHILDREN OF AMBASSADORS AND FOREIGN ENVOYS. THIS YEAR'S GRADUATION BOOK CARRIES PHOTOS OF ALL THE GRADUATES. EACH PHOTO IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE STUDENT'S FAVORITE QUOTATION.

TIM PUCCI, THE SON OF A MILITARY ATTACHE IN THE U.S. EMBASSY, HAS CHOSEN THE QUOTE, 'POWER DOES NOT COME FROM DEFENSE, BUT FROM ATTACK.' THE QUOTE IS ACCOMPANIED BY THE SIGNATURE, **ADOLF HITLER**-

ANGRY PARENTS, WHOSE CHILDREN PURCHASED THE BOOK FOR 50 DOLLARS, DISCOVERED **ADOLF HITLER'S** NAME ON PAGE 74. (YESTERDAY) AT NOONTIME THEY CALLED THE SCHOOL, AS WELL AS DIRECTOR DETWILER'S HOME, AND DEMANDED THAT HE STOP THE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BOOK. ACCORDING TO THE PARENTS, THE DIRECTOR INSISTS THAT THIS IS IMPOSSIBLE.

STUDENTS YESTERDAY SAID THAT IN RECENT YEARS HOLOCAUST DAY HAS BECOME A SOURCE OF CONFRONTATION AT THE SCHOOL ON ACCOUNT OF THE INDIFFERENCE AND DISREGARD DISPLAYED BY THE CHILDREN OF FOREIGN ENVOYS TOWARD THIS IMPORTANT MEMORIAL DAY." END TEXT

10. BEGIN TEXT OF SCHOOL STATEMENT SIGNED BY RICHARD M. DETWILER AND ROBERT BYRNES, CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD:  
"STATEMENT REGARDING THE YEDIDOT STORY

THE WALWORTH BARBOUR AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL APOLOGIZES DEEPLY TO ANY AND ALL OF OUR SCHOOL COMMUNITY AND TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC FOR PUBLISHING A GLARINGLY INAPPROPRIATE QUOTE IN THE STUDENT YEARBOOK. PUBLISHING

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THIS QUOTE SHOWED A SIGNIFICANT ERROR IN JUDGMENT ON OUR PART.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON, JUNE 10, THE ANNUAL SCHOOL YEARBOOK WAS DISTRIBUTED TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AT THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL IN ISRAEL. SHORTLY AFTER DISTRIBUTION, STUDENTS CAME TOGETHER TO QUESTION WHY THIS QUOTE WAS SELECTED BY A CLASSMATE, AND TO SHARE HOW DEEPLY IT HURT THEM. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATORS BECAME DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN COUNSELING STUDENTS, STAFF, AND LATER THAT EVENING, PARENTS, AND IN EXPLORING OPTIONS FOR REMOVING THE QUOTE FROM THE YEARBOOK. FURTHER DISTRIBUTION OF THE REMAINING COPIES WAS STOPPED THURSDAY NIGHT, UNTIL A RESOLUTION CAN BE DETERMINED.

FRIDAY MORNING, THE STUDENT COUNCIL REQUESTED AND WAS GRANTED PERMISSION TO CONDUCT A HIGH SCHOOL ASSEMBLY ON MONDAY. THAT ASSEMBLY WILL DEAL WITH WAYS TO ADDRESS THIS TROUBLING INCIDENT. WE APPLAUD THE INITIATIVE OF THE STUDENTS IN DEALING WITH THIS SITUATION.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, THE AIS BOARD, ADMINISTRATION, AND STUDENT COUNCIL ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

'WE DEEPLY AND SINCERELY REGRET THE APPEARANCE OF THE QUOTE IN OUR YEARBOOK, WE ARE ACTING RESPONSIBLY TO DETERMINE WHAT CAN BE DONE ABOUT THE BOOKS ALREADY PUBLISHED, AND WE ARE CONTINUING OUR EFFORTS TO HELP STUDENTS LEARN FROM THIS UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT.'

WE AS A SCHOOL TAKE THIS SHOCKING INCIDENT AS A HARD AND UNFORTUNATE LESSON, AND ARE PLEDGED TO LEARN FROM IT."  
END TEXT  
BROWN

ADMIN  
END OF MESSAGE

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